



The Under Secretary of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

May 23, 1996

Mr. John T. Conway
Chairman
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board
625 Indiana Avenue, NW.
Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20004

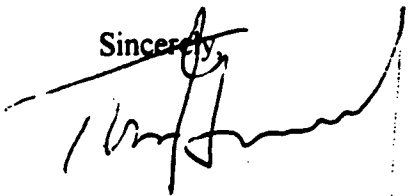
Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in response to your letter of May 9, 1996, transmitting the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board's staff report entitled "Safety of HEPA Filter Units in Hanford B-Plant Exhaust Ventilation System."

A copy of the report has been provided to the Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management. Discussions between the Department and the Defense Board staff are scheduled for the week of May 20, 1996, to further clarify B Plant ventilation system safety issues. Following completion of these discussions, the Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management will provide the Board a written response to the B Plant High Efficiency Particulate Air filter report.

If you have any additional questions, please contact me or have a member of your staff contact Mr. Alvin L. Alm, Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management, at (202) 586-7709.

Sincerely,


Thomas P. Grumbly